

Some local names of plants—VI*

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The writer esteems it a satisfaction and a privilege to be enabled again to contribute material toward a glossary of American plant names. Ever in search of bird appellations, his net is out also for unusual plant designations and those included in the present installment come from a wide variety of sources that are indicated in the text except in the case of names personally gleaned.

Examination of papers of Dr. B. S. Barton in the library of the Pennsylvania Historical Society revealed that he made a point of collecting local names of plants, and suggested that his principal botanical works, now rather rare, would be good sources of material in this field, a point that was verified by consultation of a set of his publications in the Library of the American Philosophical Society. Names from the Barton Journal additional to those in Lyon's valuable compilation (*Plant Names*, 1907) are here included and designated by the surname (Barton) in parentheses.

Scattered vernaculars from old books that touch upon natural history also are given. Such works are sources of some of the most interesting items. Some of the writers, considering the state of information in their time, dealt rather fully with plants and the names they used must be considered as the foundation of American vernacular plant nomenclature. Among such writings the following are exceptional for their periods: William Wood, *New England's Prospect*, 1634; Bernard Romans, *A concise natural history of east and west Florida*, 1775; and John Lee Williams, *A view of west Florida*, 1827.

The names used in localities where the colonizing stock has persisted down to our time have an interest of their own, and a

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number of them have been recorded in previous articles of this series, particularly cognomens of French derivation prevalent in Acadian Louisiana. Recently there has been published a study of "The survival of French in the old District of Sainte Genevieve" [Missouri] (Univ. Mo. Studies, 10(2), April 1935) by W. A. Dorrance. The specifically identifiable plant names from that work are here reproduced and indicated by (Dorrance) in parentheses.

In a previous installment (III, 1920, p. 17), I pointed out how near Linnaeus came to monopolizing the naming of our common plants; the proportion for specific groups at the former reference was 52 out of 95, and in the present case, 51 out of 72. All of the names in this contribution are indexed for convenient use, especially in connection with other glossaries.

ULVACEAE

1. *Ulva* and *Enteromorpha*.—Brant salad, coast of Virginia and North Carolina (C. Cottam).

PINACEAE

2. *Taxodium* spp.—Swamp cedar, Southern States.
3. *Abies Fraseri* Pursh.—The local name here mentioned is on record but a little discussion may be clarifying. Years ago in North Carolina I was told about the lash-horn or lash-horn tree as being peculiar to the high mountains, the vicinity of White-top Mountain on the N. Car.-Va. line being specifically mentioned. No more light came on this term until I encountered accidentally, in an article on birds (Rives, W. C., *The Auk*, 6(1), Jan. 1889, p. 51), this statement about White-top Mountain: "the extreme summit is covered with a species of balsam known locally as the lash-horn." Lyon's index (*Plant Names*, 1907) calls for "lashhorn" in connection with *Picea mariana* but it is not given in the text and this assignment of the name would seem to be an error. Sudworth (*Check List*, (1927) gives "Lashorn balsam spruce" for *A. Fraseri*, evidently a combination vernacular and book name. I believe the indigenous term is as given above by the writer and by Rives. Local investigation as to its meaning would be of interest.

EPHEDRACEAE

4. *Ephedra* spp.—Brigham's tea, clapweed, southern Utah and Nevada (Ray Chandler); most of the vernacular names known for these plants (see Lyon's Plant Names, 1907, p. 177; Wootton and Standley, Flora of N. Mex., 1915, p. 38) refer to a supposed value for the treatment of venereal diseases.

TYPHACEAE

5. *Typha latifolia* L.—Queue de rat, Louisiana (Dorrance).

POTAMOGETONACEAE

6. *Potamogeton praelongus* Wulfen.—Muskie (i.e. muskellunge) weed, Wisconsin (John H. Steenis).
 7. *Ruppia maritima* L.—Duck grass, coast of Virginia (C. Cottam).
 8. *Zostera marina* L.—Sea-oar, coast of Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina (C. Cottam).

ALISMACEAE

9. *Echinodorus* sp.—Bean-leaved wampee, Combahee River, S. Car. (L. A. Beckman).

GRAMINEAE

10. *Setaria italica* L.—Quail's-delight, Hilton Head Id., S. Car.
 11. *Leersia oryzoides* L.—Cut-grass, Charleston, W. Va. (Barton).
 12. *Spartina alterniflora* Loiseleur.—Cow-grass (William Vogt, Delaware Sportsman, 2(2), Oct. 1936, p. 9).
 13. *Spartina patens* Aiton.—Bent hay, Delaware (C. Cottam).
 14. *Phragmites communis* Trinius.—Foftail (William Vogt, Delaware Sportsman, 2(2), Oct. 1936, p. 9).

CYPERACEAE

15. *Scirpus validus* Vahl.—A note by J. G. Cooper on the common western name of this plant is of interest. He says, it "should be printed tulé, it being the Spanish or Mexican name of the giant rush In Utah it is spelled Tooele, the lake thus named being within the range of Spanish travel, but should be pronounced too-ly in two syllables" (The Auk, 3(1), Jan. 1886, p. 124).

16. *Rynchospora corniculata* Lamarck.—Spile-[spoil-] market, Ritter, S. Car.; from the effect of the presence of its akenes in reducing the grade of rice; a name persisting from the now rather remote days of rice farming.

ARACEAE

17. *Acorus Calamus* L.—Belle-angélique, swamp-root, wild flag, wild iris, Missouri (Dorrance).

ERIOCAULACEAE

18. *Eriocaulon* spp.—Hatpins, eastern North Carolina (A. C. Martin).

BROMELIACEAE

19. *Dendropogon usneoides* L.—Barbe espagnole, Louisiana and Missouri (Dorrance).

SAURURACEAE

20. *Saururus cernuus* L.—Swamp-dragon, Combahee River, S. Car. (L. A. Beckman).

JUGLANDACEAE

21. *Juglans cinerea* L.—Noyer tendre, Missouri, (Dorrance).
22. *Juglans nigra* L.—Noyer de France, Missouri (Dorrance).

BETULACEAE

23. *Corylus rostrata* Aiton.—Horned hazel (David Thomas, Travels, etc., 1819, p. 222).

URTICACEAE

24. *Celtis occidentalis* L.—Bois connu, a syncopated form of bois inconnu, Louisiana (Dorrance); haggberry,¹ hoopwood, Kentucky and Virginia; sugarnut, Kentucky (Barton).

AMARANTHACEAE

25. *Acnida cannabina* L.—Marsh poke, Delaware (C. Cottam).
26. *Alternanthera philoxeroides* Martius.—Pigweed, throughout lower South Carolina.

¹ Haggberry is a Scottish name for the bird cherry, *Prunus Padus*. It became corrupted to hackberry. Editor.

PHYTOLACCACEAE

27. *Phytolacca decandra* L.—Coak, Genesee River, N. Y. (Barton).

CARYOPHYLLACEAE

28. *Spergula arvensis* L.—Wild-flax, Skagit County, Wash. (W. H. Ransom).

CERATOPHYLLACEAE

29. *Ceratophyllum demersum* L.—Water-cedar, Wakulla, Fla.

NYMPHAEACEAE

30. *Cabomba caroliniana* Gray.—Fanwort, fish-grass, Washington-grass, Washington plant (Trade names).

RANUNCULACEAE

31. *Cimicifuga racemosa* L.—Big snake-root, Maryland (Barton).
32. *Actaea alba* L.—Richweed, Virginia (Barton).

MAGNOLIACEAE

33. *Liriodendron tulipifera* L.—Bois jaune, Louisiana and Missouri (Dorrance); a tree with much white (or sap) wood is called white-wood, one with much yellow (or heart) wood is called yellow-wood; New York (Barton).

ANONACEAE

34. *Asimina triloba* Dunal.—Aciminier, assiminer, the fruit aciminie, assimine, Missouri (from an Algonquian term rassimina); acmine, jasmine, Louisiana (Dorrance).

BERBERIDACEAE

35. *Podophyllum peltatum* L.—Umbrella-root, Virginia (Barton); the fruit, citron, Missouri (Dorrance).

LAURACEAE

36. *Benzoin aestivale* L.—Poivrier, wild pimento, Missouri (Dorrance).

PLATANACEAE

37. *Platanus occidentalis* L.—Cottonnier, Louisiana (Dorrance).

ROSACEAE

38. *Crataegus* spp.—Cenellier, the fruit, cenelle, Canada and Louisiana (Dorrance).

LEGUMINOSAE

39. *Gleditsia triacanthos* L.—Honey tree (Robert Beverley, History of Virginia, 1722, p. 118).
 40. *Cercis canadensis* L.—Bois noir, Missouri (Dorrance); fish-blossom (David Thomas, Travels, etc., 1819, p. 67).
 41. *Baptisia australis* L.—Wild pea, North Fork of the Shenandoah River, Va. (Barton).
 42. *Glottidium vesicarium* Jacquin.—Mole-bean, Hilton Head Id., S. Car.
 43. *Pueraria Thunbergiana* Siebold and Zuccarini.—Porch-vine, Alabama (Soil Conversation, 1(8), March 1936, p. 12).

EMPETRACEAE

44. *Empetrum nigrum* Tournefort.—Bear-berry, Labrador (Geo. H. Mackay, The Auk, 9(1), Jan. 1892, p. 16).

SIMARUBACEAE

45. *Simmondsia californica* Nuttall.—Sheep nut, wild hazelnut.

ANACARDIACEAE

46. *Rhus toxicodendron* L.—Herbe à la puce, Canada and Louisiana (Dorrance); running ivy, Muskeget Id., Mass. (Geo. H. Mackay, The Auk, 12, 1895, p. 33).

AQUIFOLIACEAE

47. *Ilex opaca* Aiton.—Christmas-berry, Jekyll Id., Ga.

MALVACEAE

48. *Abutilon Theophrasti* Medic. (*A. Abutilon* L.)—Wild-cotton, Culpepper, Va. (Barton).

BUETTNERIACEAE

49. *Melochia corchorifolia* L.—Chocolate-weed, South Carolina, and Georgia.

PASSIFLORACEAE

50. *Passiflora incarnata* L.—The term maypop now generally

used in the Southeastern States seems traceable to maracock (William Strachey, The historie of travaile into Virginia Britannia, c. 1618, Reprint 1849, p. 72) and maricock, said to be an Indian word (Robert Beverley, History of Virginia, 1722, p. 125), as we find the intermediate term maycock in John Lawson's History of Carolina ((1714) 1860, p. 159).

ELAEAGNACEAE

51. *Shepherdia canadensis* L.—Canadian sallow-thorn (Barton).

ONAGRACEAE

52. *Isnardia palustris* L.—Water-weed, Combahee River, S. Car. (L. A. Beckman).

HALORAGIDACEAE

53. *Myriophyllum pinnatum* Walter.—Rooted coontail, Combahee River, S. Car. (L. A. Beckman).

ARALIACEAE

54. *Aralia spinosa* L.—Tear-blanket, Isom Lake, Tenn.

UMBELLIFERAE

55. *Eryngium aquaticum* L.—Contrayerva, "the two Carolinas, W. Bartram" (Barton).
56. *Daucus carota* L.—Herbe à dinde (because fed to young turkeys), Missouri (Dorrance).

ERICACEAE

57. *Rhododendron maximum* L.—Laurel (with no modifier), Maryland and Virginia (Barton); Great Smoky Mountains, Tenn. (Science News Letter, 30(799), Aug. 1, 1936, p. 69).
58. *Kalmia latifolia* L.—Little laurel, Western Maryland (F. Warnick); ivy, Great Smoky Mountains, Tenn. (Science News Letter, 30(799), Aug. 1, 1936, p. 69).
59. *Vaccinium ovatum* Pursh.—Shotberry, Nehalem, Ore. (Gene Simpson).

EBENACEAE

60. *Diospyros virginiana* L.—Plaqueminier, Louisiana (Dorrance).

OLEACEAE

61. *Chionanthus virginica* L.—Father grey-beard, Virginia (Barton).

LABIATAE

62. *Trichostema dichotomum* L.—Pennyroyal, Maryland near Harper's Ferry (Barton).
 63. *Clinopodium Nepeta* L.—Horse-mint, Monticello, Va.; wild horehound, Staunton, Va. (Barton). I am obliged to Dr. John K. Small for indicating the probable identity of this plant for which Barton gives four scientific names.
 64. *Collinsonia canadensis* L.—Mountain balm, Virginia; rattlesnakeroot, Charleston, W. Va. (Barton).

SOLANACEAE

65. *Solanum carolinense* L.—Irish plumb (David Thomas, Travels, etc., 1819, p. 224).
 66. *Physalis virginiana* Miller.—Hog plum, wild pompon, Niagara Falls, N. Y. (Barton).
 67. *Hyoscyamus niger* L.—Henbeem or henbean, corruptions of henbane; devil's-cabbage; all in Maryland, near Harper's Ferry (Barton).

SCROPHULARIACEAE

68. *Verbascum Thapsus* L.—Bouillon blanc (used as a decoction to reduce swellings), Louisiana and Missouri (Dorrance).

MARTYNIACEAE

69. *Martynia louisiana* Miller.—Cuckold's-horn, and a corruption cockle-horn, near Charlottesville, Va. (Barton).

RUBIACEAE

70. *Mitchella repens* L.—Heath-hen plum, Long Id., N. Y., S. L. Mitchell (in Herbert, H. W., Frank Forester's Field Sports of the U. S., etc., 1, 1873, p. 56).
 71. *Cephalanthus occidentalis* L.—Button-flower (David Thomas, Travels, etc., 1819, p. 222).
 72. *Symphoricarpos* sp.—Herbe à balai (formerly used for brooms), buck-brush, deerberry, Missouri (Dorrance).
 73. *Triosteum perfoliatum* L.—Gentian, Warm Springs Mt., Va. (Barton).

74. *Viburnum rufidulum* Rafinesque.—Alisier, the fruit, alise, Louisiana; in Missouri these names are applied to either black (*Viburnum*) or red (*Crataegus*) haws (Dorrance).

COMPOSITAE

75. *Vernonia noveboracensis* L.—Devil's-bit, Charleston, W. Va. (Barton).
76. *Eupatorium coelestinum* L.—Wooly-head, Columbia, Pa. (Barton).
77. *Baccharis* spp.—Cotton-bush, sea-island myrtle, Georgia, South Carolina; there is an excusable tendency to confuse *Baccharis* and *Iva* in the application of local names and the terms, marsh elder and hightide bush, according to Clarence Cottam, are so confused on the New York coast, and the appellation kink-bush similarly misused near Ocean City, Md.
78. *Xanthium* spp.—Herbe à coquin, Louisiana (Dorrance).
79. *Cotula coronopifolia* L.—Brassbuttons, Long Point Id., Calif.
80. *Tussilago farfara* L.—The name pooke for "Colts-foote" (William Wood, New Englands Prospect, 1634 (1898 reprint), p. 107) appears to be the forerunner of poke, now applied most commonly, perhaps, to *Phytolacca decandra*.
81. *Hypochaeris radicata* L.—Yellow weed, Nehalem, Ore. (Gene Simpson).

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